

GCV GREEN NETWORK PARTNERSHIP PROJECT BRIEF:

STRATHLEVEN CORRIDOR GREEN NETWORK STUDY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Glasgow and Clyde Valley (GCV) Green Network Partnership is a catalyst for the creation of a transformational, high quality Green Network across the Glasgow metropolitan area. The role of the Partnership is to act strategically to stimulate and facilitate the planning, delivery and sustainable long term management of the Green Network.

The aim is to create a step change in the scale and quality of the Green Network to improve the region's competitiveness for investment, enhance quality of life, promote biodiversity and more sustainable use of natural resources, and encourage healthy lifestyles.

The GCV Green Network Partnership brings together the eight local authorities which comprise the Glasgow metropolitan region with five major government agencies that promote and deliver on the environmental, social, health and economic agendas throughout the GCV area, namely Communities Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, Glasgow Centre for Population Health, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

2. BACKGROUND

The West Dunbartonshire Council area is recognised as facing significant regeneration challenges. In Clydebank this has been co-ordinated through the Clydebank Rebuilt Urban Regeneration Company. The other urban areas of West Dunbartonshire, Dumbarton and the towns within the Vale of Leven, have also been the subject of regeneration initiatives, but much remains to be done to turn around the fortunes of the area.

To this end the Strathleven Corridor has been identified as a means by which to bring together the individual regeneration projects and opportunities outside of Clydebank into a coherent programme of concerted action.

The Strathleven Corridor stretches from Bowling Harbour on the River Clyde to Balloch on the banks of Loch Lomond. It follows the River Clyde from Bowling Harbour to the mouth of the River Leven, then the River Leven through Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven to its source at Loch Lomond.

The following regeneration priorities and development opportunities are located within the Strathleven Corridor:

- Bowling Harbour

- The Esso Bowling terminal
- A82 Link Road
- Dumbarton Waterfront and Town Centre
- Lomond Gate
- Alexandria Town Centre
- Balloch West Riverside

At the heart of the Strathleven Corridor regeneration is the creation of the Lomond Canal; a new canal running alongside the River Leven, connecting Loch Lomond with the River Clyde and to the Forth and Clyde Canal at Bowling Harbour. This ambitious project would have significant socio-economic and flood prevention benefits.

The Strathleven Corridor initiative is being taken forward in a partnership between West Dunbartonshire Council, British Waterways, the Strathleven Regeneration Company and Scottish Enterprise. The partners have been encouraged by the Scottish Government to submit an outline business case in support of a concerted, co-ordinated regeneration approach to the area.

EKOS Ltd has recently been appointed to prepare a Strategic Outline Case for submission to the Scottish Government to seek support for the development of a full business case for support and intervention in the Strathleven Corridor. This work is ongoing and is to be completed by Mid-March. It is expected that the successful Green Network Study consultant will liaise with EKOS Ltd to provide input to the Strategic Outline Case. This would be required before the end of February.

3. PROJECT AIMS

The aims of the project are to:

- identify how the development of a Green Network in the Strathleven Corridor aligns with the Scottish Government's Strategic Objectives and other policy initiatives and documents, thus supporting the Strategic Outline Case and the case for intervention in the Corridor;
- identify how development of the Green Network can support the regeneration of the Strathleven Corridor;
- identify how the development of the Strathleven Corridor can help to deliver the vision for the Green Network in West Dunbartonshire through identification of opportunities for the development and enhancement of the Green Network within the Strathleven Corridor;

Note: Following the submission of the Strategic Outline case to the Scottish Government, there is no guarantee that the Council and its partners will be given the go-ahead to take the proposals for the Strathleven Corridor any further. Under these circumstances, at risk would be the development of the Lomond Canal and a coherent approach to the regeneration of the sites listed above. However, should this be the case, it is essential that any study brought forward in relation to this brief remains valid and implementable in the most part.

4. SCOPE OF STUDY

Geographically, the study should consider the area from The Saltings, a Local Nature Reserve to the west of Clydebank, and the urban areas between there and the source of the River Leven at Loch Lomond, namely Old Kilpatrick, Bowling, Milton, Dumbarton, the Vale of Leven towns of Bonhill, Renton and Alexandria, and Balloch. Consideration of the links into the surrounding countryside and the Green Network value of the countryside should also be considered.

As per the Project Aim, the study should focus on the support offered to the Strathleven Corridor initiative by the concept of the Green Network, how the development of the corridor can develop and enhance the Green Network and on the development of Green Network principles for key regeneration and development opportunities to be identified by the consultants. In doing so particular regard should be paid to the four themes of the Green Network Partnership namely:

- stronger communities;
- enterprise development;
- health improvement; and
- biodiversity and the environment

An Open Space Audit and Strategy is currently being prepared for West Dunbartonshire Council by KKP Consultants. The brief being worked to is attached. Whilst there may be some overlap between that project and this one, this project is expected to have a more strategic focus, concentrating on larger sites and opportunities and the formation of links between spaces, communities and where people want to travel to. Liaison with KKP, however, would be beneficial and is recommended.

5. SUGGESTED METHODOLOGY

The following stages are considered necessary to the development of a successful Green Network Study of the Strathleven Corridor.

1) Desk review – the successful consultant will become familiar with relevant studies and reports relating to West Dunbartonshire in general, the Strathleven Corridor and the GCV Green Network. Documents to assist with this will be provided by the Council.

2) Interviews with key players – it is essential that there is a full understanding of the Strathleven Corridor initiative and the individual components within it. Interviews with key individuals involved and/or with an interest in the development of the initiative will be essential in developing this. Up to 8 interviews with senior representatives of project steering group organisations can be expected.

3) Green Network audit – there is a requirement for a full understanding of the existing Green Network resources within the Strathleven Corridor and the links and gaps between these. An audit of existing Green Network resources is therefore required.

4) SWOT analysis – a useful understanding and presentation of the area's issues will be developed by undertaking an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. These should be analysed with regard to the Green Network themes.

5) Strategy development – a developed understanding of the Strathleven Corridor initiative and Green Network resources therein will allow for the strategy for the area to be developed. Timescales require that the initial focus will be on how the the development of the Green Network within the Strathleven Corridor can support the Council and its partner's overall vision for the area and the case of Government intervention. Following this will be a concentration on how the Green Network can be developed and enhanced within the Strathleven Corridor, including particular regard to the development sites. The identification of priorities and projects will be an essential part of this, with a clear and

concise set of 'next steps' and/or 'Phase 2' projects identified, along with a series of monitoring and evaluation indicators.

No public consultation is proposed as part of this Study as consultation on the proposed Strathleven Corridor development will be undertaken at a later date.

6. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Two particular project outputs are sought:

- A short report for submission to the project partners and EKOS Ltd to enable matters relating to the Green Network to be built into the Strategic Outline Case being prepared for submission to the Scottish Government. A final draft of this will be required by the end of February to allow EKOS Ltd to build it into the Strategic Outline Case.
- A full Green Network Study for the Strathleven Corridor area, which would reflect the output above, but also stand alone as an implementable document should the Strathleven Corridor initiative not be supported by the Government or taken up immediately. The Study should:
 - Identify the components of the Green Network within the Strathleven Corridor;
 - Include a qualitative assessment of the Green Network and key sites and linkages within it;
 - Identify gaps and deficiencies within the Green Network within the Corridor.opportunities for the enhancement and expansion of the Green Network;
 - Include a strategy for the development for the development of the Strathleven Corridor Green Network having regard to the above outputs and the area's development opportunities previously listed;
 - Identify priority projects and actions and potential delivery partners and funding sources; and
 - Clearly identify the next steps for the project partners.
 - Identify monitoring and evaluation indicators.

Following acceptance of the final report, a presentation of the findings to the partners will be required.

7. REPORTS

The structure and format of all reports must be agreed with the Steering Group prior to production.

The consultants are required to provide 6 bound copies and 1 unbound copy of both the report supporting the Strategic Outline Case and the final study report. In addition, an electronic version of the documents (including a web-ready PDF), together with any accompanying maps, appendices and diagrams should be provided on CD.

Please note that diagrams should be available in a vector based format to allow conversion to Freehand or Illustrator for use in Mac-based graphics packages. This will allow diagrams to be easily incorporated into project promotional material.

8. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Lead officer

The lead contact for the project will be:

Alan Williamson

Section Head – Forward Planning and regeneration
West Dunbartonshire Council
Garshake Road
Dumbarton
G82 3PU

Tel: 01389 737164

Fax: 01389 737512

Email: alan.williamson@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Steering Group

A Steering Group will oversee delivery of the project and will comprise:

- GCV Green Network Partnership
- West Dunbartonshire Council
- British Waterways
- Strathleven Regeneration Company
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park

9. TIMESCALE

Board Approval	16 December 2008
Tenders Returned	30 January 2009
Assessment / interview	w/c 2 February 2009
Consultants appointed	w/c 2 February 2009
Inception meeting	w/c 2 February 2009
Draft report supporting Strategic Outline Case	27 February 2009
Final report supporting Strategic Outline Case	6 March 2008
Draft Green Network Study	1 May 2009

10. BUDGET

A budget has been set for the study of £30,000 exclusive of VAT. The budget includes provision for both fees and expenses.

Consultants must also include the following within their budget:

- attendance at 5 Steering Group meetings, including the inception meeting;
- a presentation at an event yet to be determined to launch the guidance.

Consultants are invited to propose an appropriate set of staged payments linked to the production of identified outputs.

11. TENDER SUBMISSION

Consultants should provide the following in their submission:

- The team's approach to and understanding of the brief, including detailed justified proposals for meeting the aims of the study;
- The methodology that will be adopted for the study, including a detailed activity programme, likely timescales following appointment, the consultation approach, and any inputs the consultants expect from the partners;
- Completion of the enclosed documentation accompanying this brief;
- Consultancy fees (on a lump sum basis) and expenses, excluding VAT;
- A resume of management and staff that would be committed to the contract and their respected roles, responsibilities and past experience and qualifications, time input to the project and their hourly rates. The project leader should be clearly identified as the Partner's point of contact; and
- Past examples of similar work which the team has undertaken and relevant client references (including names and contact details).

The project partners reserve the right to accept a tender other than the lowest or not to accept any tender at all and will not be held liable for any costs incurred in the preparation of the tenders.

12. SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS

The consultants will be required to demonstrate a good understanding of the scope of the study, and have experience in strategic work that reflects the full range of policy interests. Such interests will include land use planning, landscape design, economic regeneration, community development and biodiversity/conservation within the natural environment.

Time is of the essence in this contract and the consultants will need to confirm that they have the capacity to complete the work within the timescale indicated below. To expedite the work a full briefing will be provided and access to information facilitated by members of the Steering Group.

Consultants will be selected through a competitive tender process considering quality and cost. The weighting that will be given to each is as follows:

Experience (30%)
Understanding/Addressing the Brief (35%)
Management of Commission (15%)
Cost (20%)

13. CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

A contract between West Dunbartonshire Council and the appointed consultant will rest upon an exchange of letters. The first letter will be in the form of an offer to supply services by the consultant to West Dunbartonshire Council incorporating the conditions within this Brief. The second letter will be from West Dunbartonshire Council to the successful consultant accepting the consultant's offer subject to any amendments that may be agreed between West Dunbartonshire Council and the consultant.

Consultants should note that the following clauses apply to this commission:

- Copyright in and ownership of all reports and any other material and information prepared by the consultant, stored and /or depicted in whatever format or medium, which form part of the study, will vest in the Partners. No details can be reproduced in whole or in part by the consultant concerned, or by any third party, without the written permission of the Partners.
- The Partners will be free to use the reports, and the other material and information as they see fit, and to authorise or assign to others such rights of use as they consider appropriate. The consultant shall not be entitled to receive any additional payment in respect of any such use.
- No publicity of the study, the reports, or any other outputs associated with the study will be allowed, unless with the prior agreement of the Partners.
- In providing the services requested the appointed consultant shall exercise reasonable skill and care in conformity with the normal standards of a skilled and experienced practitioner in the area of activity for which they are appointed.

West Dunbartonshire Council shall be entitled to terminate the appointment by giving one weeks notice to that effect in which case fees will be paid in respect of all work carried out prior to the date on which notice was given and as appropriate and agreed in respect of work carried out during the period of notice of termination.

The consultant shall not be entitled to assign its interests under the contract without the prior written consent of West Dunbartonshire Council and shall not sub-contract its responsibilities thereunder.

14. INDEMNITY/WARRANTIES

Insurance shall be maintained for a period of 5 years following the date of completion of the study

The Council will require to be satisfied with the consultant's professional indemnity insurance before confirming the appointment. On request, the Council shall be entitled to see details of the relevant policy and evidence that it is currently in force.

The consultant will indemnify the Council and any other party for whom it has a duty of care under the contract against any claim or loss arising from the study or otherwise from the contract and arising out of the breach or negligent performance or failure in performance of the consultant.

The consultant shall maintain public liability and employer's liability insurance at least at the minimum statutory level, which shall also cover the Council as principal.

The consultant, by accepting this consultancy, acknowledges that a duty of care will be owed to the Partners individually in respect of those areas of the consultant's work which are relevant to that party and its decision making. An extension of the duty of care by way of a collateral warranty will be required, the form of which must be approved by West Dunbartonshire Council.

15. SUBMISSION OF TENDER PROPOSALS

Four paper copies and a CD copy of your tender proposal should be submitted no later than 12.00 Noon on 30 January 2009 to:

Head of Legal & Administration
West Dunbartonshire Council
Council Offices
Garshake Road
Dumbarton
G82 3PU

Tenderers should follow the instructions for return of the tender contained in the Tender Pack of which this Brief forms part.